

# NEWS RELEASE

Nevada Office of the Military  
2460 Fairview Drive, Carson City 89701

April Conway  
775.887.7252  
mobile 775.287.5592  
april.conway@ang.af.mil

Erick Studenicka  
775.887.7250  
mobile 775.720.3906  
erick.studenicka@us.army.mil

[www.NevadaGuard.com](http://www.NevadaGuard.com)  
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## **Top Nevada Guard Soldiers compete for special school slots**

By Spc. Emerson Marcus

106th Public Affairs Detachment

RENO – The top Soldiers in the Nevada National Guard battled for a chance to attend one of the Army elite schools during the state's annual Special Schools Order Merit List competition here May 22-23. The Soldiers contested several military skills in order to see who was ready for military schools such as Army Ranger and Airborne training.

The competition took place at the Washoe County Armory and included a sling-loading exercise, an urban reconnaissance exercise, an Army Physical Fitness Test and a 12-mile march in combat gear.

"This event allows Soldiers to decide through their own performance where they are going for school," said Sgt. Maj. Mark Rogers, the non-commissioned officer in charge of the competition. The event originated in 2009.

Henderson resident 2nd Lt. Jeffrey Greer of the 1/221st Cavalry finished first in the competition. Rogers said Greer is now set to become the third Nevada Guardsmen to go to Army Ranger School when funds become available.

Greer finished the 12-mile march in 2 hours, 18 minutes with a 37 pound pack. He scored a 332 on the fitness test with 87 pushups, 95 sit-ups and a 12:20 2-mile run.

Sgt. Kevin Gerow of the 485th Military Police Company won the Special Schools Order Merit List competition in 2010 and graduated from Army Ranger School last year.

"It's really hard to describe the school," Gerow said. "I was up 22-24 hours each day. It was basic training on steroids."

Sgt. 1st Class Cameron Anderson of Joint Force Headquarters finished second in the competition and will now likely attend Army Pathfinder School at Fort Benning, Ga., in July.

Pfc. Kyle Morse of the 1/221st finished third.

“I’m really glad I participated in the competition,” said Morse, who wants to attend Sabalauski Air Assault School in Fort Campbell, Ky. “The march wasn’t too difficult because the course was fairly flat, but there were portions with soft dirt that really made the pack feel extremely heavy. I’m happy I completed the competition and I’m looking forward to the special training I’ll receive because of my performance.”

For information on future merit list competitions, call (775) 887-7350.